



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Division of Consumer Affairs
Audiology and Speech-Language
Pathology Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 45002, Newark, NJ 07101

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Volume 4

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

Message from the Chairperson

"Communication-It's What We're All About"

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to reach out to New Jersey licensees via this newsletter and also the Web site <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/medical/audiology.htm>. We are professionals who value the importance of communication. So it only makes sense that we continue to strive towards improving communication within our professions.

The overriding mission of each board and committee is to protect the public by ensuring that only qualified individuals are licensed to practice in New Jersey. Boards are supported by professional staff who receive and process complaints and information which are presented to the board/committee members for review. Open dialogue and communication are invited and there are many mechanisms in place to facilitate these activities.

Did you know that you can find the answer to many of your questions online? You can get the information you need-fast! Whether it involves continuing education requirements, scope of practice, or license reinstatement, the information is there for you to access.

When you need additional assistance, inquiries can be directed to the office staff. Meet the people of the office as you continue to read this newsletter. Correspondence can be sent to the Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Advisory Committee, P.O. Box 45002, Newark, N.J. 07101 or call (973) 504-6390.

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AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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This newsletter is published by the Committee for its licensees. Inquiries should be addressed to:

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DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- If you need to contact the Committee about a complaint, you can access information online that will guide you through the process. Complaints also can be mailed directly to Consumer Affairs via the Web site.
- If you need up-to-date information with regard to changes in fees or new adoptions, you can find it online. From time to time, new rules are adopted after the publication of the current statutes and regulations. Here's a way to make sure you're aware of any changes.
- If you want to stay current regarding what was discussed at public session meetings, you can find meeting dates, minutes, agendas-all at your fingertips-online. Are you interested in attending a public session? Plan ahead, mark it down. We've got directions for you.

So let's keep communicating. I hope that you find this "bit of information" helpful as we seek ways to improve our communication with you. Until next time, thank you for your continued commitment to the people you serve.

Anne M. Eckert, Au.D.
Chairperson

Meet the Office Staff

Renee Clark has been the Executive Director of the Committee for the past four years. Ms. Clark has a Master's Degree in History from New York University and also manages the Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee and the Acupuncture Examining Board. Ms. Clark has been with the Division of Consumer Affairs for six years.

Linda Jones is the Head Clerk and primary person in charge of licensure for the Committee. Ms. Jones has been working for the State since 1980, and she has worked for the Division of Consumer Affairs for over 20 years. Ms. Jones has worked for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee for the past six years, and she is in charge of most aspects of the licensure process for the Committee.

Tracy Inman is in charge of reinstatements for the Committee. Ms. Inman brings over six years of experience to the Committee and is always available to answer questions or direct inquiries to the Committee.

Continuing Education Audits

The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee requires all its licensees to participate in ongoing continuing education so that they remain up-to-date with respect to new concepts and methods in the fields of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. As a condition for biennial license renewal, all New Jersey-licensed Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists must complete twenty (20) credits of continuing professional education during the biennial period immediately preceding their current renewal application. Examples of appropriate and acceptable continuing professional education activities include:

- Giving a new seminar, lecture or in-service workshop.
- Teaching a new graduate course.
- Publication of a copyrighted article about audiology or speech-language pathology in a national journal.
- Attendance at seminars and conferences.
- Self-assessment home study courses accompanied by examination and sponsored by a nationally-recognized professional organization in audiology or speech-language pathology.
- Successful completion of graduate course work taken beyond that which is required for a professional license.

Specific information regarding the number of applicable credits assigned to each of the continuing professional education activities noted above can be found in N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2.

Licensees must keep comprehensive records of the continuing education hours (1 continuing education hour = 1 continuing education unit) that they have completed to verify program attendance or activity completion (see N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.3). In addition, they must be prepared to submit detailed documentation of those hours to the Committee upon request and maintain these records for five (5) years following the renewal period.

Over the last several years, the Committee has simplified license renewal application forms by only requesting that licensees indicate if they have completed the required continuing education units (C.E.U.s) for the prior biennial period. To ensure that licensees are in fact participating in these educational programs, the Committee conducts audits by mail to a randomly selected sample of 5% of all Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists currently licensed in New Jersey.

Following the renewal of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licenses for 2005-2007, the Committee's audit resulted in 273 of 5,815 licensees receiving an "audit" letter in March 2006. These randomly selected licensees were required to furnish copies of their continuing education certificates and/or transcripts documenting completion of the twenty (20) required continuing education hours necessary for the 2003-2005 biennial renewal.

The results of this audit revealed that, of the 273 licensees, 37 (13.5%) were found to be out of compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2, and will therefore be issued appropriate disciplinary penalties.

Use of self-assessment study courses are acceptable sources for continuing education; however, be mindful that licensees cannot apply any more than ten (10) continuing education hours of home study for any two-year license period.

Disciplinary Actions 2005-2006

Bernadette Mullen - in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-9.2 (Aiding and abetting unlicensed practice of temporary licensee).

Marissa L. Nagy - in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44 C-9.1 (a) (Unlicensed practice as a temporary licensee).

Stacey R. Perazza-Gsell - in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-8.1(d) (Recordkeeping).

All licensees shall prepare, within 30 days of a written request from a patient or any person whom the patient has designated to receive such, a written report summarizing the information set forth in (a) above.

The following licensees were fined for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:3B-18 (Failure to comply with continuing education requirements).

Renee Freund 41YA00063800

Karen Bethel 41YS00424400

Dawn M. Desimone 41YS00284700

The following licensees were fined for a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-4.1 (Failure to renew a license), and N.J.S.A. 45:3B-15 (Prohibition of representation as a practitioner by an unlicensed person):

Shelli M. Napolitano 41YS00229800

Jennifer M. Marchitto 41YA00051800

Janice S. Blaufeder 41YS00182200

Karen A. Masters 41YS00224500

Sheri A. Marino-Haiken 41YS00259000

Rachel M. Leibner-Meth 41YS00260100

Eileen L. Bennett 41YS00267300

Nicole Marcus 41YS00270100

Aileen J. Collucci 41YS00357200

Suzanne M. Wiley 41YS00351100

Kathleen Jerome-Pierre 41YS00483400

Joan V. Hamill - Uniform penalty letter for violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-9.1 (It shall be unlawful for a licensee to aid or assist in any of the acts identified in N.J.A.C. 13:44C-9.1(Acts amounting to unlicensed practice)).

Robbie Ann Bright-Poole - Uniform penalty letter for violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44C-9.2 (Aiding and abetting unlicensed practice).

Lauren M. Michler - Uniform penalty letter for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:3B-15 (Prohibition of representation as a practitioner by an unlicensed person).

Stephanie Slavitt - Consent order for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21k, where licensee has violated any provision of P.L. 1983, c.320 (C.17:33A 1 et seq.) or any insurance fraud prevention law or act of jurisdiction, or has been adjudicated, in civil or administrative proceedings, of a violation of P.L. 1983, c.3:20 C. 17:33A-1 et seq.) or has been subject to a final order entered in civil or administrative proceedings, that imposed civil penalties under that act against the applicant or holder.

NOTICE

License Renewal

Be on the look-out for renewal notices. Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licenses expire on October 31, 2007. Licensees are required to renew their licenses prior to the expiration date regardless of whether or not they receive a renewal notice.

License Renewal Fees

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licenses will be up for renewal in November 2007. As you know, licenses are renewed every other year. From 1999-2003, there was no fee for renewal as there were surplus funds in the State's account. Costs have now increased substantially and as a result there will be an increase in fees this year. The renewal fee will be \$170.00. For those applying for an initial license, the application fee is \$75.00 plus the \$170.00 fee for a total of \$245. If you are applying for a new license in the second half of the biennial renewal period, the fee will be \$160.00. Don't forget to contact the Committee office at 973-504-6390 if you have any questions.

The Speech-Language Specialist Certificate and New Jersey Licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist: Requirements and Considerations

The Committee has heard both from New Jersey students who are applying for licenses, as well as from applicants who are new to the State of New Jersey, that they are confused about the requirements for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist and certification as a Speech-Language Specialist. In this article, we will attempt to clarify the requirements and need for each credential.

Licensure is required for speech-language pathologists (S.L.P.s) who wish to work in any setting other than a school program that is under the direction of the State Department of Education. For example, licensure is required for speech-language pathologists in private practice, health care settings, and early intervention programs. If a person seeks to provide speech-language services in a school program, they are required to hold either a Speech-Language Specialist (S.L.S.) or Speech Correctionist certificate.

To be eligible for an S.L.S. certificate, a candidate must hold a master's degree or higher in speech-language pathology from a regionally accredited college or university, and pass a State-approved test of comprehensive knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology. Interested applicants may go to www.nj.gov for further information.

Students who are graduating from accredited graduate programs in speech-language pathology, and are interested in acquiring both a license in speech-language pathology and an S.L.S. certificate, are recommended to speak with a faculty advisor about applying for the S.L.S. certificate. The PRAXIS exam, which is required for licensure, also serves as the State-approved test for the S.L.S. certificate. A passing grade on this exam can fulfill the national exam requirement for both credentials.

If your first job following the earning of your master's degree is in a setting other than a school, you must apply for a temporary license in speech-language pathology. If you are employed as a S.L.S. in a school, but provide services outside of that setting as either a private practitioner or an employee of another facility, an S.L.P. license is required. Contact the Committee

for application materials. If your first job following the earning of your master's degree is in a school setting, a temporary license is not required. Rather, you should apply for and receive an S.L.S. certificate to work in the school setting for your first year. At the conclusion of that year, you may apply for licensure, which would enable you to work in other settings, such as private practice. However, one of the requirements for licensure is that you complete a clinical internship under the supervision of a Speech-Language Pathologist licensed by the State of New Jersey.

What many new graduates do, in order to receive both their New Jersey license as an S.L.P. and their ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (C.C.C.), is to take a job in a school setting, where their supervisor holds both a New Jersey license in speech-language pathology and the ASHA C.C.C. credential. The first year of work in a school can then serve as both the clinical internship year (needed for licensure in New Jersey as a S.L.P.) and the clinical fellowship year (needed for the ASHA C.C.C. credential). If you choose this option, you don't need to apply for a temporary license in speech-language pathology; just apply for a permanent license in speech-language pathology at the conclusion of your first year of employment. Check the Committee's Web site for the regulations which you and your supervisor need to adhere to during your clinical internship year. You may always call the Committee's office at any time if you have questions. Good luck and welcome to practice as a S.L.P. in New Jersey!

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2007

September 27, 2007

November 8, 2007

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